



EXILE GROUP SPLITS

(Paris, Tribuna - Czech)

29/ June 1951

**CONFIDENTIAL**

# CONFIDENTIAL

## EXILE GROUP SPLITS

On 9 January 1951, the executive committee of the KSC (Kada Svobodneho Ceskoslovenska, Council of Free Czechoslovakia) met in Washington. According to a decision of the president the meeting was to discuss the political situation within Czechoslovakia, in the exile movement, and in the world; the political program of the KSC, Czechoslovak participation in the European movement, reports from the chairman of the Regional Groups of the KSC in London, Paris, and Ottawa; and finally a number of organizational questions of the most general nature.

The discussions, which lasted 2 weeks, immediately turned into a heated fight over conditions in the KSC. The background of the dispute was whether the ~~survived~~ origin of the Czechoslovak exile movement was to be formed as a coalition of political parties or not at all. Specific differences ranged around the questions of the freedom of the chairman, Slovak autonomy, and the composition of the delegation which was to be sent to confer with the National Council for a Free Europe. It was soon clear that no compromise was possible.

Dr Kovara, a Slovak Democrat, considered the question of Slovak autonomy the key problem in the dispute. He identified his position with that of the First Republic, in that he categorically rejected the idea of Czech or Slovak separatism. He announced that he felt that some members of the KSC considered the Slovak question as their own personal property. He then resigned from the Council.

When discussion could proceed no further, Dr Jaroslav Stransky and others announced that the KSC had split and that they were reforming themselves into a new group to be called the NVSC (Narodni Vyhod Svobodneho Ceskoslovenska, National Committee of Free

# CONFIDENTIAL

## CONFIDENTIAL

Czechoslovakia).

All of the members of the new organization pledged to forget party differences while in exile. The organization then called all who oppose Communism to follow and support its work.

The NVSC then entrusted Vojta Benes, Josef Dieska, Ladislav Feilerabend, Adolf Klimek, Stefan Kocvara, Jan Papanek, and Hubert Rypka with the preparatory work of the new organization.

A number of members of the RSC were not present at the formation of the NVSC and do not recognize it. The remaining RSC members announced that they still held a majority of the members and a quorum, emphasized that the question of Slovak or Czech separatism had never come up, and urged those who had left the Council to return.

The former members of the executive committee of the RSC are now divided as follows:

Those still in the RSC: Cerny, Agrarian Party; Franek, Slovak Democratic Party; Heidrich, nonparty; Lettrich, Slovak Democratic Party; Majer, Social Democratic Party; Osusky, nonparty; Prochazka, People's Party; Slavik, nonparty; Bunza, People's Party; Kral, Agrarian Party; Kvetko, Slovak Democratic Party; ~~Nejasec~~<sup>M</sup>, Social Democratic Party; Rechcigl, Agrarian Party; Sabo, Slovak Freedom Party; Vanek, (replaced by Sedlak, Social Democratic Party); Viboeh, Slovak Democratic Party.

Those now in the NVSC: Dieska, (replaced by Pavlov, Slovak Freedom Party); Papanek, nonparty; Zenkl, National Socialist Party; Vojta Benes (replacing Holub, Social Democratic Party, who resigned); Blaho, Slovak Freedom Party; Firt, National Socialist Party; Hrebik, Sokol; Ingr, nonparty; Klimek, People's Party; Kocvara, Slovak Democratic Party; Rinka, National Socialist Party; Jaroslav Stransky, National Socialist Party; Zak, Slovak Social Democratic Party.

## CONFIDENTIAL

## CONFIDENTIAL

Ferdinand Peroutka did not participate in the formation of the NVSC, and did not express his stand clearly.

By 25 January 1961, this division in the Czechoslovak exile movement had become a fact.

- END -

- 3 -

## CONFIDENTIAL